

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**Please amend Claim 13 as follows:**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A composite material comprising:  
a base;  
a first fiber in contact with the base and having a cross sectional diameter of greater than about 3 microns; and  
a plurality of elongated second fibers having a cross sectional diameter of less than approximately 1 micron wherein the plurality of second fibers is predominately in contact with a distal portion of the first fiber.
2. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of elongated second fibers is bonded to a portion of said first fiber.
3. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 2, wherein said portion comprises the tips.
4. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 1, wherein at least some of said plurality of elongated second fibers comprises multi-walled nanotubes.
5. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 4, wherein said multi-walled nanotubes are hollow.
6. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 5, wherein said multi-walled nanotubes and said first fiber both comprise carbon.
7. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 6, wherein said first fiber is nickel coated.
- 8-12. **(Cancelled).**
13. **(Currently Amended)** A composite material comprising:  
a base;  
a first plurality of fibers having first and second ends, said second ends being in contact with said base, and said fibers being predominantly aligned and forming a sheet that extends in a direction substantially parallel to the base ~~fibers~~, wherein substantially all of said plurality of fibers have a diameter of about 15 microns or less; and

a carbon fiber material comprising a collection of carbon fibers located predominantly proximate to said first end of at least some of said first plurality of fibers, said collection of carbon fibers on each end having an overall diameter substantially greater than a diameter of the first end to which they are attached, said carbon fiber material forming a pliable contact surface being substantially parallel with said first end, said pliable contact surface having a higher degree of mechanical resilience than the plurality of fibers in response to application of an external load.

14. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 13, wherein said plurality of fibers have a diameter of more than about 3 microns, and wherein said carbon fiber material comprises a plurality of nanofibrils having a diameter of less than about 1 micron.

15. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 13, wherein said plurality of fibers have a diameter of more than about 3 microns, and wherein said carbon fiber material comprises an unaligned discontinuous powder of nanofibrils with diameters of about 50-300 nanometers and lengths of about 20 to 80 microns.

16. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 14, wherein said plurality of fibers comprise carbon.

17. **(Original)** The composite material of Claim 16, wherein said plurality of fibers is nickel coated.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A composite material comprising:

a plurality of fibers having first and second ends, said fibers being predominantly aligned and having a diameter of more than about 3 microns; and

a carbon fiber material located predominantly proximate to said first end and comprising an unaligned discontinuous powder of nanofibrils with diameters of about 50-300 nanometers and lengths of about 20 to 80 microns, said carbon fiber material forming a pliable contact surface being substantially parallel with said first end.